SECRET / RYBAT

VIA Air

DISPATCH NO. [ ]1615

#126 JMWAVE

TO Chief, Western Hemisphere and Chief of Mission, Lincoln

DATE 11 May 1954

FROM [ ]

SUBJECT General - KUGOWN Operations

Specific - Conferencia de Exiliados Sindicalistas Democraticos de la America Latina

REFERENCES: [ ]135, 3 May 1954
LIEC-2425, 6 May 1954
DIR-49410, 6 May 1954

2003

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1. Subject conference was held in Mexico from 1 to 3 May 1954 under the overt sponsorship of the Organizacion Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ORIT). The conference was financed and directed by KUGOWN, and the activities of the standing committee established at the conference (Comite de Exiliados Sindicalistas de America Latina: CESDAL) will be supervised by KUGOWN.

2. Among the achievements of the conference was a speech given by Ruben Villatoro, exiled leader of the Union Nacional de Trabajadores Libres of Guatemala (a small union broken up by the Guatemalan government), in which he attacked the Arbenz regime and its Communist domination of Guatemalan labor. (Attachment A). It is reported that 5,000 copies of this speech were printed by ORIT and disseminated throughout the hemisphere (principally in Guatemala) in pamphlet form. The first issue of "El Obrero Libre", the organ of the UNTL in exile, was also published and disseminated in Mexico City (Attachment B). Delegates to the conference marched in Mexico's May Day labor parade under the auspices of Mexico's powerful CTM (Confederacion de Trabajadores de Mexico) and banners proclaiming "Obreros Guatemaltecos Exiliados Por Arbenz Saludamos a la CTM" and "Trabajadores Guatemaltecos Oprimidos por el Comunismo Arbencista Gritamos Viva Mexico Libre". Posters placed in the conference's meeting hall declared:

"Trabajadores de Mexico:

Los miembros directivos de la UNION NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES LIBRES, exilados por el Presidente de Guatemala Coronel Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, os saludan en esta gloriosa fecha del proletariado universal y expresan su deseo de verse como ustedes emancipados del comunismo.

Viva Mexico!

Viva Guatemala Libre!"

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Small leaflets with the message were distributed on May Day in Mexico in the number of 70,000 (Attachment C). Press coverage of the conference in Mexico was disappointingly small, but the agent who supervised the operation reports that press bulletins were given to the wire services for publication throughout the hemisphere. It would be appreciated if all addressees would report any such coverage in their respective countries to Headquarters with an information copy to [redacted]

3. On instructions from Headquarters and LINCOLN we are sending to addressees press clippings concerning the conference (and to several stations Attachments A and B) for the purpose of obtaining further publicity for the event and its activities. Photographs of the exiles' participation in the May Day parade will follow by subsequent dispatch.

Boyd I. Nolander

BIN/cav
Attach: A, B, C and
newspaper clippings
cc: 3 - Wash.
2 - Linc.
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]